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The KT

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Balkhy Links Improved Security to Progress in Vaccination Campaigns, Polio Reduction Efforts in Afghanistan

KABUL: A senior delegation led by Dr. Hanan Balkhy, Regional Director of the World Health Organization (WHO) for the Eastern Mediterranean, met with Deputy Prime Minister for Administrative Affairs Mawlawi Abdul Salam Hanafi, focusing on strengthening Afghanistan's health system and accelerating polio eradication efforts.

The meeting was attended by representatives from UNICEF, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and the Embassy of Qatar, and centered on expanding cooperation in public health, improving vaccination coverage, and supporting long-term health sector development in Afghanistan, Arg said in a statement the other day.

Dr. Balkhy highlighted that Afghanistan's nationwide security environment has played a significant role in enabling more effective vaccination campaigns across the country. She noted progress in reducing polio cases and stressed that stronger coordination among stakeholders is essential to sustain and accelerate these gains.

Balkhy further expressed optimism that polio could be fully eradicated within the next 12 months if cooperation continues to improve and current momentum is maintained through coordinated international and national efforts.

Meanwhile, Mawlavi Hanafi pointed to reported progress in counter-narcotics efforts, stating that cultivation, production, and trafficking of narcotics in Afghanistan have decreased significantly according to recent United Nations assessments.

He also addressed the challenges linked to the return of nearly five million Afghan migrants, emphasizing government efforts in registration, temporary shelter provision, land distribution, and humanitarian assistance to support returnees and ease their reintegration.

The Kabul Times

Border Security Strengthening Remains Top National Priority, Defense Minister Says

KABUL: The country's Minister of Defense, Mawlavi Mohammad Yaqoob Mujahid, has reaffirmed that strengthening border security remains a top national priority during an official field visit to border forces in Badakhshan province.Mawlavi Yaqoob conducted an on-site assessment of the First Border Battalion of the 15th Border Brigade in Ishkashim district of Badakhshan province, where he reviewed the operational readiness, security posture, and overall conditions of stationed personnel, according to a statement from the ministry on Monday.

During the visit, Mujahid emphasized the critical role of border forces in safeguarding Afghanistan's national sovereignty and maintaining stability along the country's frontiers. He stressed that border security units carry a vital responsibility in protecting territorial integrity and ensuring effective control of remote and sensitive areas.

He further underlined the importance of maintaining

full preparedness at all times to respond effectively to any potential threats or security challengesReaffirming the Islamic Emirate's stance, the Defense Minister stated that strengthening border security remains a long-term national priority. He added that continued support, training, and morale-building initiatives for security personnel are crucial for ensuring lasting stability and effective border management across the country.**The Kabul Times**

Commission Holds Meeting to Address Complaints, Journalists' Concerns

KABUL: The meeting of the Media Complaints and Violations Commission was held under the leadership of Deputy Minister of Information and Culture for Publications Affairs, Mawlavi Mohajer Farahi, to address complaints and concerns of Journalists.The meeting focused on reviewing

ongoing complaints related to several radio stations, including "Tajala" and "Chenar," as well as addressing broader concerns regarding journalists' rights and media operations in the country, the ministry said in a statement on Monday.According to the statement, the meeting discussed proposed solutions and approved the formation of specialized committees tasked with conducting detailed investigations into the cases.

These committees are expected to submit comprehensive reports at the next meeting for final review and decision-making.

The Kabul Times

Country's First Astronaut Abdul Ahad Momand Laid to Rest in Kabul

KABUL: Funeral prayers for Abdul Ahad Momand, Afghanistan's first astronaut, were held at the historic Eidgah Mosque in Kabul before he was laid to rest at Maranjan Hill Cemetery.The funeral ceremony was attended by officials of the Islamic Emirate, members of Momand's family, former colleagues, and a large number of citizens who gathered to pay their final respects to one of Afghanistan's most prominent national figures, RTA reported on Monday.

According to the statement, Momand's remains were transferred from Stuttgart, Germany, to Kabul at the request of his family through the coordinated efforts of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, National Defense, Interior Affairs, and Transport and Civil Aviation.

Abdul Ahad Momand remains the only Afghan to have traveled into space, achieving international recognition through his historic mission and bringing global attention to Afghanistan's scientific achievements.

Momand passed away in Germany at the age of 67 after battling cancer.

The Kabul Times

Khalid Hanafi: "Twenty Years of Sacrifice Led to the Establishment of the Islamic System"

KABUL: The Minister of Promotion of Virtue, Prevention of Vice, and Complaints, Shaikh Mohammad Khalid Hanafi, stated during his visit to northern provinces that the current Islamic system in Afghanistan is the result of two decades of Jihad, sacrifice, and resilience.

Speaking at a gathering with religious scholars and tribal elders in Balkh province, he described the establishment of the system as a historic outcome of long-term efforts and sacrifices made over the past twenty years, RTA reported on Monday.

The Minister emphasized that religious scholars and community elders carry a significant responsibility in promoting Islamic values, strengthening social awareness, and contributing to moral development in society.

Hanafi urged religious scholars to actively participate in designing and implementing programs that help build a "healthy intellectual and moral environment" across communities

The Kabul Times

Book Evaluation Commission Holds Meeting

KABUL: The meeting of the Book Evaluation Commission was held on Monday under the chairmanship of Deputy Minister for Publications of the Ministry of Information and Culture, Mawlavi Muhajir Farahi, to review publications and make decisions regarding book approvals.

The ministry said in a statement that the commission members examined a number of submitted books and approved the publication of works found to be consistent with Islamic and Afghan cultural values. The meeting evaluated 61 titles comprising 160 volumes of locally produced and imported books covering various subjects, adding that 10 book titles referred back to the commission were distributed among members for further assessment, with reports to be presented at the next meeting.

The commission also discussed the publication of works by a religious author and pledged cooperation in facilitating their printing. Furthermore, members reached decisions regarding five English-language educational textbooks, continuing efforts to regulate and improve educational publishing standards, the statement added.

The Kabul Times

Breshna Company Holds Talks with Turkish Firm on Electricity Generation in Afghanistan

KABUL: Officials from DaAfghanistan Breshna Sherkat have held discussions with representatives of the Turkish company "Sonay" regarding potential investment in electricity generation projects in Afghanistan.

The meeting focused on expanding cooperation in the energy sector and exploring practical steps for launching power production projects, the DABS said in a statement on Monday.

Breshna officials welcomed foreign investment and urged the Turkish company to move forward with concrete implementation plans to support Afghanistan's growing energy demand.

The Kabul Times

Severe Flooding Causes Widespread Destruction, Human Losses in Logar

PUL-I-ALAM: Heavy rainfall and flash floods have resulted in significant human and material losses in Azra district of Logar province over the past days, the provincial Directorate of Disaster Management said in a statement on Monday.

The statement confirmed that several areas, including Akbarkhil, Chotra Bala, Chotra Payin, Jani Khel, Tang, Fath Khel, and Mangaldara, were severely affected by the floods triggered during recent days of heavy rainfall.The disaster has left at least four people injured, while causing extensive damage to residential homes, agricultural land, and public infrastructure, the statement said, adding that 14 houses have been completely destroyed, two major roads and several bridges and culverts were damaged, and approximately 250 jeribs of farmland were washed away.

Assessment teams have been deployed to evaluate the full scale of the damage and to coordinate emergency assistance for the affected population, the statement added.

The Kabul Times

Deadly Bus Accident Leaves One Dead, 28 Injured in Zabul

QALAT: At least one person has been killed and 28 injured in a passenger bus accident in Shah Joy district of Zabul province, the provincial police command said in a statement on Monday.According to the statement, a type 580 passenger vehicle lost control and overturned in the Baghergan area of Shah Joy district early in the morning.Authorities confirmed that the injured include 18 men, six women, and four children, and emergency response teams and highway police quickly arrived at the scene and transported the victims to nearby medical facilities for urgent treatment.**The Kabul Times**

Health Cooperation, Strengthening of Polio Eradication Efforts Discussed, Ministry

KABUL: The country's Minister of Public Health, Mawlavi Noor Jalal Jalali, in a meeting with a delegation led by Dr. Hanan Balkhy, WHO Regional Director for the Eastern Mediterranean, discussed the expansion of health cooperation and improvement of coordination between Afghanistan and international health partners.

The ministry said in a statement the other day that both sides discussed strengthening long-term collaboration in the health sector, improving the effectiveness of joint health programs, and accelerating efforts to eradicate polio across Afghanistan.

The discussions also highlighted the need for sustained international engagement in supporting Afghanistan's healthcare system, the statement said.

According to the statement, the international partners expressed strong commitment to supporting the construction and development of specialized hospitals in Afghanistan, particularly facilities dedicated to cancer treatment and cardiovascular diseases, which remain among the country's most urgent medical needs.

Both parties emphasized that continued cooperation and coordinated planning are essential to improving healthcare delivery and addressing critical gaps in the national health system.

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Food for thought

Today's Generation Guarantees Our Bright Future

Afghanistan's Migration Challenge and Imperative of Global Solidarity

Afghanistan today stands at the crossroads of one of the most complex migration crises in the world. The return of millions of Afghans since 2023 has created immense pressure on a country already grappling with economic fragility, climate change, and strained public services. This is not merely a domestic issue, it is part of a global migration challenge that no nation has ever solved in isolation.

History offers a clear lesson about migration crises that are inherently transnational. Whether in Europe, Africa, or the Middle East, countries facing large-scale displacement and return movements have relied on international cooperation to manage the burden. No state, regardless of its resources, has succeeded alone. The sheer scale of human mobility, driven by conflict, poverty, and environmental stress, demands shared responsibility.

Afghanistan's situation is particularly acute. The influx of returnees from neighboring countries has swelled communities already struggling with limited infrastructure. Housing, healthcare, education, and employment systems are under unprecedented strain. Internally displaced persons and host communities face mounting challenges, while women and vulnerable groups bear the brunt of the crisis. Without external support, the country risks deepening instability and humanitarian breakdown.

The call for coordinated and sustainable assistance is not a matter of charity, it is a matter of necessity. Migration is a global phenomenon, and its consequences ripple far beyond borders. If Afghanistan is left to shoulder this burden alone, the repercussions will extend across the region and beyond. Unmanaged migration flows can destabilize economies, fuel insecurity, and create new humanitarian emergencies.

International solidarity must therefore be more than rhetoric. It requires practical, long-term investment in Afghanistan's capacity to absorb returnees and rebuild communities. This includes strengthening essential services, supporting livelihoods, and addressing the impacts of climate change that exacerbate displacement. It also means ensuring that humanitarian aid does not decline at the very moment it is most needed.

The lesson is stark as no country has ever overcome migration challenges without the backing of the global community. Afghanistan, facing one of the largest return movements in the world, cannot be expected to succeed where others have not. The responsibility lies with donor nations, international institutions, and regional partners to provide sustained, coordinated, and meaningful support.

Afghanistan's migration crisis is not just Afghanistan's problem, it is a test of global solidarity. If the international community rises to the challenge, it can help transform a moment of strain into an opportunity for resilience. If it fails, the consequences will reverberate far beyond Kabul's borders.

Supporting Afghanistan's Healthcare System; a Critical Humanitarian Priority

By: Mashal Noori

Afghanistan's healthcare system is still facing severe funding shortages, and infrastructure deficits.

Despite efforts by the Islamic Emirate's Ministry of Public Health, and aid organizations, unmet medical needs persist nationwide, severely limiting access to care for millions.

The leadership of the Islamic Emirate have always called the international health partners for strengthening the country's healthcare system.

In their recent separate meetings with the World Health Organization (WHO) and other international partners operating in the country, they have once again asked for strengthening the country's healthcare system.

Minister of Public Health, Mawlavi Noor Jalal Jalali, in his recent meeting with a delegation led by Dr. Hanan Balkhy, WHO Regional Director for the Eastern Mediterranean, has discussed the expansion of health cooperation and improvement of coordination between Afghanistan and international health partners. Both sides have discussed strengthening long-term collaboration in the health sector, improving the effectiveness of joint health programs, and accelerating efforts to eradicate polio across Afghanistan.

The discussions have also highlighted the need for sustained international engagement in supporting Afghanistan's healthcare system.

In the meeting, the international partners have expressed strong commitment to supporting the construction and development of specialized hospitals in Afghanistan, particularly facilities dedicated to cancer treatment and cardiovascular diseases, which remain among the country's most urgent medical needs.

Both parties emphasized that continued cooperation and coordinated planning are essential to improving healthcare delivery and addressing critical gaps in the national health system.

Afghanistan's health sector is currently supported by an extensive network of thousands of public and private health facilities.

The country's Ministry of Public Health operates under the National Health Policy, which emphasizes equitable access to primary, secondary, and tertiary healthcare while prioritizing disease prevention and the upgrade of remote health centers in the country.

Over the past three years, several factors have led to a reduction in mortality rates and an increase in access to healthcare. Currently, a majority of Afghans live within a reasonable distance of healthcare centers. Moreover, provincial public health directorates and healthcare centers have expanded their roles in providing both basic healthcare and hospital-based services. The country's Ministry of Public Health is tirelessly working with other international partners to provide all necessary treatment facilities for citizens, with equipping hospitals with standard medical devices, expanding healthcare services, reducing mortality rates in both public and private hospitals, strengthening pediatric care units, prioritizing disease prevention, and upgrading health centers in remote provinces and districts.

In addition, the ministry is also working to address capacity building for medical staff, specialized training programs for doctors and healthcare workers, creating favorable working conditions for specialists in health facilities, ensuring a suitable and dignified environment for patients and their attendants in hospitals, and promoting courteous conduct by medical personnel towards patients. Despite that the country's Ministry of Public Health is working to address all challenges facing the country's health sector, it is time the international health partners should fully support the country's healthcare system, which is a critical humanitarian priority.

Power Outages in Kabul: A Growing Challenge and the Need for Sustainable Solutions

By: Azar Rasikh

In the modern era, electricity is no longer merely a public convenience; it is one of the most fundamental pillars of economic, social, and cultural development. Daily life, government and private sector operations, healthcare services, education, industry,

trade, communications, and even public security depend heavily on reliable and sustainable access to electrical power. Whenever this essential service is disrupted, the consequences extend far beyond the inconvenience of darkness and affect virtually every aspect of citizens' lives.

In recent weeks, frequent power outages in Kabul have become one of the most pressing concerns for residents of the Afghan capital. Many citizens have complained about repeated electricity cuts occurring at different times throughout the day and night. In some neighborhoods, electricity is restored only briefly before being interrupted again for several hours. This situation has created significant difficulties for thousands of households and has adversely affected economic and social activities across the city.

The first and most immediate consequence of these outages is their direct impact on family life. During the heat of summer and the cold of winter, many households struggle to use electrical appliances, preserve food, maintain adequate lighting, and access communication services. Power interruptions render refrigerators, heating and cooling systems, and electronic devices unusable and, in many cases, cause financial losses due to damaged equipment and spoiled food supplies.

The economic impact of persistent power outages is equally significant. Hundreds of manufacturing workshops, factories, bakeries, retail stores, restaurants, private companies, and service providers depend on electricity to maintain their operations. When electricity is unavailable for extended periods, production processes are disrupted, services are delayed, and business revenues decline. This not only harms investors and business owners but also threatens employment opportunities and broader economic growth.

The education sector has also been severely affected. Thousands of school pupils and university students rely on electricity for studying, conducting research, accessing the internet, and using digital educational resources. Frequent electricity interruptions, particularly during evening hours, deprive many young people of valuable study time and negatively affect the quality of education. In a world where digital learning is rapidly expanding, unreliable electricity further widens educational disparities and limits opportunities for academic advancement.

In the healthcare sector, the consequences of electricity shortages are especially serious. Although major hospitals often have access to backup generators, operating such systems is costly and may not always meet all operational requirements. Moreover, many clinics, laboratories, and smaller healthcare facilities lack sufficient emergency power capacity. Continued disruptions therefore have the potential to undermine the quality and accessibility of medical services.

In today's increasingly digital economy, many individuals depend directly on electricity and internet connectivity for their livelihoods. Journalists, translators, software developers, designers, students, and businesspeople rely on uninterrupted access to electricity and communication networks to perform their daily tasks. Each power outage disrupts internet services, interrupts professional activities, reduces productivity, and results in lost economic opportunities.

Energy experts believe that several factors may contribute to the growing frequency of power outages in Kabul. These include the rapid growth of the city's population, increasing electricity consumption, the expansion of new residential areas, the aging of parts of the transmission and distribution network, insufficient investment in energy infrastructure, and the country's significant dependence on imported electricity.

In addition, any disruptions in cross-border transmission lines or reductions in imported electricity supplies can further exacerbate the situation.

Despite these challenges, citizens expect greater transparency and timely communication regarding the causes of power outages and the estimated time required for service restoration. Accurate and transparent public information can help reduce anxiety and enable families and businesses to plan their daily activities more effectively. In contrast, inadequate

See P4

Industrial Growth Drives Jobs, Innovation, and Sustainable Economic Development

By: Nesar Ahmad Tareq

Part II

Investors are more likely to commit long-term capital when they have confidence in the legal and regulatory environment.

Public-private partnerships can accelerate industrial development by combining government support with private-sector expertise and investment. Such partnerships can help finance infrastructure projects, industrial parks, logistics facilities, renewable energy projects, vocational training centers, and technology initiatives.

Regional economic integration offers further opportunities.

Afghanistan's strategic location makes it a potential transit and manufacturing hub linking Central Asia, South Asia, East Asia, and the Middle East. Investments in rail connectivity, highways, logistics centers, customs modernization, and cross-border trade corridors can strengthen Afghanistan's position in regional supply chains.

Import substitution should also be pursued strategically. Many goods currently imported into Afghanistan, including construction materials, processed foods, household products, pharmaceuticals, textiles, fertilizers, and agricultural equipment, could increasingly be produced domestically where economically viable.

Expanding local production would reduce foreign exchange outflows while creating jobs and strengthening industrial capacity.

Export diversification remains equally important. Overreliance on a limited number of export products increases economic vulnerability.

Developing competitive manufacturing sectors capable of exporting processed agricultural goods, textiles, carpets, marble products, gemstones, pharmaceuticals, leather goods, and light industrial products would broaden Afghanistan's export base and improve economic resilience.Industrial development is ultimately about more than factories and machinery. It is about creating opportunities for young people, strengthening national self-reliance, reducing poverty, encouraging innovation, and building a more prosperous future.

Countries that continuously invest in industry position themselves to compete in the global economy, adapt to technological change, and achieve sustainable development.

Afghanistan stands at an important moment in its economic development. The country possesses valuable natural resources, entrepreneurial

talent, abundant agricultural production, and a strategic geographic location. By investing in infrastructure, reliable energy, vocational education, industrial parks, mining value chains, agricultural processing, digital technology, financial services, research, and good governance, Afghanistan can build a modern industrial economy that creates jobs, stimulates innovation, and improves living standards for future generations.

Industrial growth is not achieved overnight, but through consistent policy, long-term investment, and national commitment.

The nations that embrace industrialization move toward greater prosperity, resilience, and competitiveness. Those that allow industrial stagnation to persist risk falling further behind in an increasingly interconnected global economy. For Afghanistan, investing in industry is not merely an economic strategy; it is a pathway toward sustainable development, national self-reliance, and lasting economic progress.

Preserving Badakhshan's Historic Monuments, a Cultural Necessity

By: Romal Sayedi

Cultural activist Ahmad Nabil Qazizada has urged the Islamic Emirate to act decisively: "We ask the Islamic Emirate to protect and restore the historic monuments in Badakhshan and prevent anyone from destroying them."

Badakhshan, a province renowned for its breathtaking landscapes and rich cultural heritage, now faces a troubling reality: many of its historic sites are at risk of destruction.

Cultural activists, journalists, and local officials have raised alarms that years of neglect, compounded by seasonal rains and natural disasters, have left monuments vulnerable to irreversible damage. Their collective call is clear — safeguarding these sites is not merely a matter of pride, but a necessity for Afghanistan's cultural identity and historical continuity.

Among the monuments most at risk are the Pul-e Kheshti of Faizabad and the Ras-ul-Mulk Mausoleum in Wakhan district.

These structures are more than stone and mortar; they are living testimonies to centuries of history, artistry, and community.

If lost, they would represent not only the disappearance of physical landmarks but also the erosion of collective memory.

Cultural activist Ahmad Nabil Qazizada has urged the Islamic Emirate to act decisively: "We ask the Islamic Emirate to protect and restore the historic monuments in Badakhshan and prevent anyone from destroying them."

His words echo the sentiments of many who fear that without urgent intervention, these monuments may vanish entirely.

Local journalist Baik Mohammad Ahmadi reinforced this concern, warning that "with the passage of time and natural disasters, these historic monuments could disappear completely. The government should restore them before they are destroyed."

The Badakhshan Department of Information and Culture acknowledges the seriousness of the situation.

Mohammad Mohaqiq, Director of Historical Monuments, confirmed that 29 registered monuments across the province require restoration and rehabilitation.

He noted that repeated requests have been sent to the Ministry of Information and Culture, with hopes that restoration work will begin soon.

While these assurances are welcome, the urgency of the matter demands more than promises — it requires immediate, coordinated action.

Preserving historic sites is not a luxury; it is a cultural necessity.

These monuments embody the identity of Badakhshan's people, linking present generations to their ancestors. They serve as educational resources, offering insights into architecture, craftsmanship, and traditions that shaped Afghan society. Moreover, they hold potential for cultural tourism, which could bring economic benefits to local communities if properly developed.

Neglecting these sites risks severing the connection between past and present.

Once destroyed, no amount of effort can fully restore their authenticity.

The loss would be permanent, depriving future generations of the chance to learn from and be inspired by their heritage.

In this sense, preservation is not only about protecting stones and structures but about safeguarding identity, continuity, and pride.

The challenges are undeniable.

Years of governmental neglect have left many sites weakened. Seasonal rains, floods, and earthquakes exacerbate the deterioration. Bureaucratic delays, limited funding, and lack of technical expertise further complicate restoration efforts.

Yet these obstacles cannot justify inaction.

The responsibility lies with both the government and society.

The Islamic Emirate must prioritize heritage preservation as part of its cultural policy, ensuring that restoration projects receive adequate funding and oversight.

Local communities, too, play a vital role in protecting monuments from vandalism or encroachment.

International organizations could also contribute expertise and resources, recognizing that Afghanistan's heritage is part of humanity's shared legacy.

Badakhshan's monuments stand at a crossroads.

They can either be restored and preserved as enduring symbols of history, or they can crumble into oblivion. The choice is stark, and the consequences of inaction are severe. Protecting these sites is not optional — it is essential.The Pul-e Kheshti, the Ras-ul-Mulk Mausoleum, and the 29 registered monuments across the province must be treated as cultural treasures. Their preservation requires urgency, coordination, and commitment.

By acting now, the government and society can ensure that Badakhshan's heritage continues to inspire, educate, and enrich generations to come.

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Mojtaba Faqirzada-Led Team Departs for Asian U23 Athletics Championships in China

KABUL: Afghan athlete Mojtaba Faqirzada and his accompanying team departed for Ordos, China, to represent Afghanistan in the Asian U23 Athletics Championships, the National Athletics Federation said in a statement on Monday.

The competition will be held from the 9th to the 12th of the month and will bring together elite young athletes from across Asia, the statement said.Officials from the National Athletics Federation stated that the primary objective of the participation is to gain international experience, improve performance levels, and prepare for future global competitions.
The Kabul Times

Afghan Bodybuilder Wins Three Silver Medals, Earns Historic IFBB Pro Card in USA

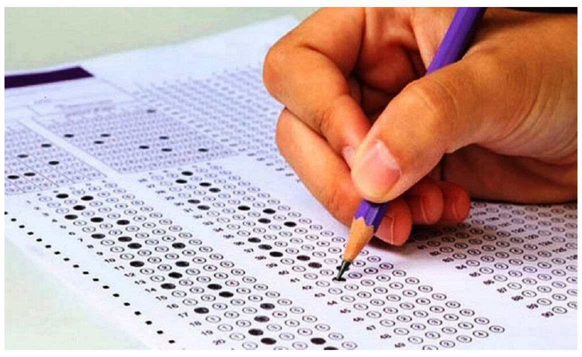
KABUL: Afghanistan's national bodybuilder Nasratullah Ansari achieved a historic milestone at the NPC Mr. Universe 2026 in the United States, winning three silver medals in the highly competitive Classic Physique category.
Competing against top international athletes in New Jersey, Ansari delivered a standout performance that earned him the IFBB Pro Card, making him the first Afghan bodybuilder in history to reach professional status.
The prestigious four-day competition brought together thousands of athletes from around the world, highlighting Ansari's achievement as a major breakthrough for Afghan sports on the global stage.
His success adds to a growing list of international achievements, including previous strong performances at major events such as the Arnold Classic.
The Kabul Times

Afghan Taekwondo Athlete Wins Silver at International G1 Tournament in France

KABUL: Former Afghan national taekwondo athlete Farzad Mansouri secured a silver medal in the -78 kg category at the international G1 Taekwondo tournament held in France.
Mansouri advanced to the final after defeating athletes from France, Burkina Faso, and other competing nations.
Despite suffering an injury during the competition, he competed in the final match but was narrowly defeated by an Iranian athlete representing the Refugee Olympic Team.
The tournament featured top-level athletes from multiple countries and is considered one of the key international ranking events in taekwondo.
The Kabul Times

1405 Kankor Results Announced as Hanafi Highlights Afghanistan's Free Education System

KABUL: Mawlavi Abdul Salam Hanafi, Deputy Prime Minister for Administrative Affairs, said on Monday that Afghanistan remains the only country in the region where education is provided free of charge from the primary level through higher education.
Speaking during the ceremony announcing the results of the 1405 National University Entrance Examination (Kankor), Hanafi said the government continues to prioritize access to education and the development of the country's academic sector, according to a statement from Arg.
He noted that 117,750 students participated in this year's nationwide Kankor examination.
Hanafi described the large number of participants as an indication of continued interest among Afghan youth in pursuing higher education and developing their academic potential.
Meanwhile, Mawlavi Muhajir Farahi, Deputy Minister of Information and Culture for Publications Affairs, stated that this year's Kankor process was conducted with a high level of transparency, adding that deserving candidates received their rightful results."The participation of tens of thousands of students disproves claims that Afghanistan's educational institutions have become inactive," Farahi said, noting that the continued operation of schools and universities demonstrates the functioning of the country's education system.
Also speaking at the event, Deputy Minister of Education Shaikh Abdul Malik Haqqani said the current environment has created suitable opportunities for the growth and development of talented students.
He added that efforts are continuing to prepare highly qualified graduates capable of serving Afghanistan and contributing to the international academic community.
According to the results announced by the National Examination Authority (NExA), Rashid, son of Pahlawan, secured first place nationwide after scoring a perfect 360 points. His outstanding performance earned him admission to the Faculty of Medicine at Abu Ali Sina Kabul University of Medical Sciences, one of Afghanistan's most competitive higher education institutions.
The second position was awarded to Enamullah, son of Shirzaman, who achieved 358.0937 points, while Abdul Hadi, son of Abdul Rahman, ranked third nationwide with 356.96791 points. Both students were recognized among the country's highest performers in this year's highly competitive examination.The Authority's results of the 1405 Kankor Examination for Religious Schools (Madrasas), Abdul Majid from Ghor province secured the highest overall score by obtaining 327.19 points, earning admission to the Central Darul Uloom of Paktika Province.**The Kabul Times**



More Than 82,000 Returning Students Re-Enrolled in Schools Within Last Academic Year, Fitrat

KABUL: At least 82,832 returning students have been reintroduced into Afghanistan's education system after completing academic placement examinations during the 1404 academic year, Deputy Spokesman of the Islamic Emirate Mullah Hamdullah Fitrat said in a statement on Monday.
Fitrat said the students successfully completed level assessment examinations before being assigned to appropriate grades in schools across the country.
He added that the reintegration process remains ongoing, with returning Afghan students continuing to enroll in educational institutions on a daily basis.
The deputy spokesman stated that the initiative is intended to ensure that returning students resume their education without unnecessary interruption and are placed according to their academic qualifications.
The Kabul Times

Strengthening Tourism Sector Requires Professional Training, Mawlawi Jamal Says

KABUL: Mawlavi Qudratullah Jamal, Deputy Minister of Information and Culture for Tourism, Finance and Administration, has emphasized that strengthening Afghanistan's tourism sector requires sustained investment in professional training, institutional cooperation, and the continuous improvement of service standards.
He made the remarks during the signing ceremony of a bilateral cooperation agreement between the Tourism and Hospitality Institute of the Ministry of Information and Culture and the state-owned Afghan Tour Company, the ministry said in a statement on Monday.
The agreement is aimed at enhancing professional capacity, promoting quality tourism services, and strengthening collaboration between educational institutions and the tourism industry.Speaking at the ceremony, Mawlawi Jamal said that developing a skilled workforce is essential for the long-term growth of Afghanistan's tourism sector. He noted that cooperation between academic institutions and tourism organizations will play a vital role in preparing qualified professionals capable of delivering high-quality services to domestic and international visitors.Under the agreement, the two sides will work together to prepare professional tourist guides, organize specialized training programs for tour guides, managers, and tourism personnel, and provide internship opportunities for students enrolled at the Tourism and Hospitality Institute, the statement said.
The partnership also includes organizing joint scientific seminars and conferences, implementing collaborative research projects, and evaluating and improving the quality of tourism services, the statement said.
The Kabul Times

Human Rights Group Warns of Increasing Restrictions on Afghan Migrants in Iran

GENEVA, SWITZERLAND: The Hanna Human Rights Organization has expressed serious concern over the growing legal and administrative challenges faced by Afghan migrants in Iran, particularly women and children.
According to the organization's report, migrants are encountering significant barriers in registering essential civil documents such as birth, marriage, and divorce certificates, along with limited access to courts and legal protection systems.
The report further warns that intensified security measures, internet disruptions, and administrative restrictions have significantly reduced access to justice and public services.
The organization has called on Iranian authorities to simplify registration procedures, ensure access to legal protection, and safeguard the fundamental rights of Afghan migrants.
The Kabul Times

MoMP Signs $89 Million Gold Mining Contract in Takhar Province

KABUL: The Ministry of Mines and Petroleum of the Islamic Emirate has signed a gold mining contract worth $89.06 million for the Sholdara and Warchi areas of Chah Ab district in Takhar province.
The agreement was signed with an Afghan mining and processing company and includes a 40 percent royalty share for the government over a ten-year period, the ministry said in a statement the other day.
The project is expected to create approximately 3,000 direct and 4,000 indirect jobs, while also contributing $2 million toward social development initiatives in the mining areas, the statement said.
The contract also includes strict environmental protection obligations and compliance with national mining regulations, the statement added.**The Kabul Times**

Power Outages in Kabul: A Growing...

From P3

communication often leads to public frustration, speculation, and the spread of misinformation.
Alongside the responsibilities of relevant institutions, citizens themselves can play an important role in managing electricity consumption. The use of energy-efficient lighting, turning off unnecessary appliances, optimizing electricity usage, and avoiding excessive consumption can help reduce pressure on the national power grid.
Energy conservation remains one of the most effective tools for managing electricity demand in countries around the world.
At the same time, investment in domestic electricity generation should become a priority within Afghanistan's long-term development strategy.
The country possesses considerable potential for generating electricity through hydropower, solar energy, wind energy, and certain thermal resources.
Proper utilization of these resources could significantly reduce Afghanistan's dependence on imported electricity over the long term and strengthen national energy security.
Many countries in the region have successfully invested in renewable energy sources to meet substantial portions of their electricity demand, and Afghanistan can benefit from these experiences through careful planning and implementation.
Furthermore, expanding the electricity transmission network, modernizing aging infrastructure, reducing transmission losses, attracting domestic and foreign investment, and training technical specialists are among the key measures that could improve the country's energy sector.
Although implementing these initiatives requires substantial investment and time, their initiation is essential for Afghanistan's future development.Reliable electricity supply is not merely an economic necessity; it is also an essential public service and a cornerstone of sustainable development.
The more secure and reliable access to energy becomes, the greater the opportunities for employment, investment, education, healthcare, and economic growth.
In conclusion, the frequent power outages in Kabul represent more than a technical challenge.
They constitute a multifaceted issue affecting nearly every aspect of public life.
Addressing this challenge requires cooperation among government institutions, technical experts, investors, and citizens alike.
Long-term planning, investment in electricity generation and transmission infrastructure, effective energy management, transparent communication, and the utilization of domestic energy resources can provide a pathway toward overcoming this crisis.It is hoped that through effective policies and practical measures, Kabul and the rest of Afghanistan will eventually benefit from a stable, reliable, and sustainable electricity network capable of meeting the growing needs of the population. Genuine development cannot be achieved without secure and continuous access to energy.